

THYROID CANCER FORUM-UK (TCF-UK): AN UPDATE

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Background/Purpose: TCF-UK was launched in 2005 as a thyroid cancer specific organisation aimed at consultants involved in the management of thyroid cancer. We have various endocrine and thyroid organisations in the UK but until the advent of TCF-UK there was no professional organisation dedicated solely to thyroid cancer.

Although various national and international guidelines exist to aid decision making and patient management they have limitations particularly when it comes to decision making for patients with complex thyroid cancer cases.

Methods: TCF-UK is a free and independent organisation.

Current membership stands at 243 with members representing oncology, surgery, endocrinology, nuclear medicine, pathology and radiology.

Original membership covered the UK and Dublin only but now there are international members including Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Holland, Panama, Republic of Ireland, USA.

Results: Facilities and benefits include:

- Access to wider opinion for difficult clinical scenarios (in 2012, 30 cases discussed)
- Regular circulation journal abstracts (in 2012, 294 abstracts circulated)
- Increased awareness of research areas, clinical trials (in 2012, 28 trial related announcements)
- Notification of meetings, guidelines, courses
- National prospective data collection for MTC and ATC
- Annual national meetings
- Separate branch for nursing and allied health professions launched 2009

Discussion & Conclusion: TCF-UK has allowed its members to have a secure and confidential forum to discuss individual cases and clinical management issues nationally. It has increased awareness of journal publications, available clinical trials as well as facilitating networking opportunities with colleagues and peer support.